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Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN NEA-07

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SES-01 SMS-01 SAS-02 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00
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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:DAK
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN
NEA/ARN - MR. CLUVERIUS
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/IRN Ø MR. PRECHT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
SECDEF WASHDC ØØØØ
JCS WASHDC ØØØØ
CIA WASHDC ØØØØ
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NSC WASHDC ØØØØ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
POUCH ALGIERS

UNCLAS STATE 038492

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: SPECIAL BRIEFING ON DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS AND VIOLENCE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN IRAN.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A SPECIAL BRIEFING BY SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER ON THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR ADOLPH DUBS AND THE VIOLENCE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN IRAN GIVEN FEBRUARY 14, 1979.

MR. CARTER: I WILL BEGIN BY GIVING YOU WHAT I HAVE ON THE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF AMBASSADOR DUBS.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM OUR EMBASSY IN KABUL, AMBASSADOR ADOLPH DUBS WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE BY UNKNOWN TERRORISTS ABOUT 8:45 A.M. KABUL TIME ON FEBRUARY 14. HE WAS BROUGHT TO THE HOTEL KABUL IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF THE CITY AND HELD IN A ROOM THERE BY TWO MEN. AMBASSADOR DUBS WAS TRAGICALLY KILLED LATER THAT DAY DURING AN ATTEMPT BY THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO TO SECURE HIS RELEASE BY FORCE.

THE AMBASSADOR WAS SEIZED FROM HIS CAR WHILE EN ROUTE FROM HIS HOME TO WORK AT THE EMBASSY THIS MORNING. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO THE PEOPLE ARE WHO SEIZED HIM AT THIS POINT. WE DO KNOW THAT, AFTER THEY HAD TAKEN HIM, THEY DEMANDED THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT RELEASE THREE AFGHAN RELIGIOUS FIGURES RECENTLY TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE GOVERNMENT THERE. WE ARE NOT CLEAR ON WHO KILLED THE AMBASSADOR.

WE WERE IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH OUR EMBASSY THROUGHOUT THE INCIDENT. THE EMBASSY REPEATEDLY URGED THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE PATIENCE AND TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE AMBASSADOR'S RELEASE WITHOUT RECOURSE TO FORCE. THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES DISREGARDED THIS ADVICE, WHICH WE CONVEYED TO THEM IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ABOUT THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS:

"I CANNOT ADEQUATELY CONVEY MY SENSE OF SHOCK AND HORROR AT THE TRAGIC DEATH OF AMBASSADOR ADOLPH DUBS IN KABUL EARLY THIS MORNING AFTER HE WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HIS CAR BY TERRORISTS. THIS BRUTAL ACT OF VIOLENCE HAS VALUED COLLEAGUE.

"THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, SPIKE DUBS DEMONSTRATED THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE. HE HAS GIVEN HIS LIFE SERVING HIS COUNTRY. HIS BRAVERY, SELF-SACRIFICE AND PERSONAL SENSE OF DUTY ARE QUALITIES OF WHICH WE ARE PROUD AND WHICH WE ALL STRIVE TO EMULATE. HIS DEATH ONLY CONFIRMS US IN OUR DETERMINATION TO WORK TO ELIMINATE THE MINDLESS VIOLENCE WHICH THREATENS OUR WORLD COMMUNITY.

"ON BEHALF OF ALL HIS COLLEAGUES, I EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCE TO AMBASSADOR DUBS' FAMILY."

BEFORE WE GO TO QUESTIONS, LET ME MOVE TO THE EVENTS IN TEHRAN AND GIVE YOU WHAT I HAVE ON THAT NOW.

AN ARMED GROUP, ESTIMATED AT SOMETHING MORE THAN 100 PERSONS, OVERRAN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEHRAN TODAY. THE ATTACKERS HELD THE EMBASSY UNTIL FORCES SENT BY PRIME MINISTER BAZARGAN RETOOK THE COMPOUND. WE UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AND THE 70 AMERICANS WHO WERE THERE HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED.

OUR EARLY REPORTS HAD ESTABLISHED THAT THERE WERE TWO AMERICANS INJURED. LATER REPORTS, HOWEVER, WHICH HAVE JUST COME IN, SUGGEST THAT THERE IS, IN FACT, ONLY

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
FEB 15 1979
COMMAND CENTER

DATE 3/13/80
DENIED BY NARA, DEPT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REASON(S) FOR EXEMPTION MARKED
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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ONE INJURY TO ONE OF THE MARINE GUARDS. IN RESISTING THE TAKEOVER, WHICH WAS TEMPORARILY SUCCESSFUL, THE AMERICANS AT THE COMPOUND USED RIOT CONTROL MEASURES, APPARENTLY INCLUDING TEAR GAS.

OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH TEHRAN HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT DURING THIS PERIOD; BUT FROM WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED, THE RESPONSE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER BAZARGAN WAS BOTH EFFECTIVE AND PROMPT. THAT GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED IN A NUMBER OF WAYS ITS CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION. FOR THIS -- BOTH THE EXPRESSIONS AND THE ACTION TAKEN -- WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL.

INSOFAR AS OUR PLANNING FOR THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS IN IRAN IS CONCERNED, WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IN AN EFFORT TO FACILITATE THE POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS THERE. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE AS TO NEXT STEPS OR WHAT'S UNDERWAY. WE ARE OBVIOUSLY AWARE THAT THIS IS OUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY, AND WE ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN IRAN.

I TRUST THAT I WILL HAVE MORE AS THE DAY GOES FORWARD ON ALL OF THIS.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY CANCELLING HIS TRIP TO MEXICO?

A. NO. THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HAS BEEN IN HERE SINCE MID-MORNING -- IN THIS BUILDING SINCE VIRTUALLY THE FIRST REPORTS OF THE INCIDENTS. HE WILL BE GOING.

Q. WAS THERE CONSIDERATION THAT HE MIGHT BE FORCED TO POSTPONE THE TRIP?

A. CLEARLY, EVENTS COULD EASILY HAVE DICTATED THAT HE STAY HERE. THE RETAKING OF THE EMBASSY, I THINK,

WAS THE DETERMINING FACTOR.

Q. THERE WERE REPORTS EARLIER THIS MORNING THAT

AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN HAD INSTRUCTED THE MARINES NOT TO RESIST AT A CERTAIN POINT THE ADVANCES OF THESE IRANIAN GUNMEN. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

A. I CANNOT CONFIRM THAT. I DON'T KNOW THAT. I DO KNOW THAT THEY DID USE TEAR GAS AT WHAT STAGES I DON'T KNOW.

Q. THERE ARE MARINES STANDING BY IN THE AZORES AND HELICOPTERS IN ITALY FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING. IS THERE ANY --

A. AS SOON AS I CAN GIVE YOU MORE ON THAT, I WILL. LET ME JUST SAY THAT WE ARE CLEARLY TAKING STEPS TO TRY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE ATTACKERS IN TEHRAN? WHICH GROUP DO YOU THINK THEY WERE?

A. WE HAVE CONFLICTING REPORTS, ALTHOUGH IT CLEARLY WAS NOT ONE CONNECTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE THE LEFT-WING GUERRILLAS?

A. AS SOON AS I HAVE AN IDENTIFICATION ON THAT -- I HAVE NO DESIRE NOT TO PUT AN IDENTIFICATION. WE ARE NOT SURE.

Q. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME REPORTS COMING OUT OF TEHRAN THAT THE AFGHAN EPISODE IS CONNECTED WITH THE TEHRAN EPISODE, THE SAME PEOPLE.

A. WHILE IT'S VERY EARLY, OUR INDICATIONS ARE THAT THERE IS NOT A CONNECTION. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE A CONNECTION. THE LIKELIHOOD OF THERE BEING ONE OF THOSE EXTRAORDINARY COINCIDENCES SEEMS STRONGER THAN THAT THEY ARE CONNECTED.

Q. WHAT IS BEING DONE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN KABUL AT THIS POINT?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT FURTHER STEPS ARE UNDERWAY. I HOPE I WILL HAVE A READOUT FOR YOU LATER ON IT -- INCLUDING THE SIZE OF THE COMMUNITY, ABOUT WHICH I'M NOT EVEN SURE.

Q. IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NOW COMMITTED TO EVACUATING ALL AMERICANS FROM IRAN? THAT IS THE GOAL?

A. WHAT WE ARE COMMITED TO IS THE SAFETY OF ALL THE AMERICANS IN IRAN? AS TO WHAT STEPS WE TAKE, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE. CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED AMEMBASSY ALGIERS.